

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 10-14 and 31-38 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and claim 16 has been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-7, 9, 15-22, 24-30, and 39 are pending.

The Office Action indicates that claims 1-7, 9, 15, 21, 22, 24, and 39 are in condition for allowance, and that claims 16-20 and 25-30 are rejected. Reconsideration of claims 16-20 and 25-30 is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 16, 19-20, and 25-27 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 16, 19-20, and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,161,306 issued to Clodic. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Clodic does not disclose, teach, or suggest at least, "a temperature detector to detect temperatures of the condensed water using regular time intervals to provide initial detected temperatures and final detected temperatures for set sections; and a controller to terminate a drying process according to a comparison of at least two temperature differences of two set sections," as recited in independent claim 16. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 16 is patentably distinguishable from the cited reference.

Claims 19-20 and 25-27 depend from claim 16 and include all of the features of claim 16. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 19-20 and 25-27 are also patentably distinguishable from the cited reference.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 28-30 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Clodic. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Clodic does not disclose the features of independent claim 16. Claims 28-30 depend from claim 16 and include all of the features of claim 16. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 28-30 are also patentably distinguishable from the cited reference.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 17-18 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable

over Clodic in view of U.S. Patent 5,806,204 issued to Hoffman et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Hoffman"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Clodic and Hoffman, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest at least, "a temperature detector to detect temperatures of the condensed water using regular time intervals to provide initial detected temperatures and final detected temperatures for set sections; and a controller to terminate a drying process according to a comparison of at least two temperature differences of two set sections," as recited in independent claim 16. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 16 is patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claims 17-18 depend from claim 16 and include all of the features of claim 16. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 17-18 are also patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Summary

Claims 1-7, 9, 15-22, 24-30, and 39 are pending. It is respectfully submitted that none of the references taken alone or in combination disclose the present claimed invention.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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